



# Guardians of Bird Island

## Design, Access, and Heritage Statement



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## Introduction

This Design, Access, and Heritage Statement is to support the planning application for a new public art installation in the parklands at Cannon Hall.

Guardians of Bird Island (GOBI) is an Arts Council funded project that will deliver new public artwork and sculpture trail for Cannon Hall and is planned to be installed in Spring 2024. The artwork fits in and is sympathetic to the registered parkland as the GOBI sculptures celebrate the environment and wildlife in the area and will engage the public with being guardians of nature. They also will act as a call to arms to users of the park to be mindful of how we use our natural resources both within the park and within a wider global context.

## Background

Cannon Hall Museum Park and Gardens is a well loved Barnsley visitor attraction and received around 650,000 visitors to the grounds last year. A maintained area of grass and woodland, on the opposite side of Daking Brook to the hall, is not often discovered by visitors. The new artworks will provide an incentive for visitors to go to this area, attracting existing and new visitors and increasing dwell time.

The 9 sculptures are being designed by local artists Lenny and Whale who use workshops as a starting point for gathering and developing visual ideas and themes which then evolve into distinctive pieces of artwork, shared and celebrated within the public domain. Over 400 families engaged in the workshops for the GOBI pieces and were inspired by the collections in Cannon Hall museum and the colours used in the paintings in the De Morgan gallery, also located in the Hall.

## Design and Access Statement

Sculpture Dimensions:

- Large sculptures: 6m including base, 4m will be visible. Width approximately 45cm at widest point.
- Small sculptures: 3m including base, 2m will be visible. Width approximately 25cm.

The sculptures are designed to last at least 6 years, however the installation is currently intended to be in situ for at least 6 months, but to maximise value for money and resources, up to 6 years if allowable, providing they remain in good condition.

The wood used in the works will be free from chemicals and be coloured to link with the heritage of the site, for example by using colours inspired by the De Morgan collection. Although colourful, the proposed hues should blend in with the woodland background so won't impact on the setting of the parkland.

Example of proposed colour palette for sculptures



Also, the sculptures are wooden so will blend with the trees to ensure relevance and be sympathetic to the surroundings.

The sculptures will be installed using the same process as installing a telegraph pole, digging a hole in the ground slightly larger than the pole, inserting the pole and then backfilling with the removed material. The two large sculptures will require the base to be inserted 2m into the ground and the seven smaller ones 1m. A specialist contractor will undertake the installation works and has undertaken similar projects at Stairfoot and Worsbrough Mill.

The proposed site is surrounded by woodland. If tree roots are uncovered during the installation process, it is proposed that informal consultation will take place with Conservation and Planning Officers to establish an alternative location so no harm will come to the woodland or heritage assets.

Further information can be found in the Design Document submitted with the planning application.

#### **Location plan and site description:**

Cannon Hall and associated Park is situated in South Yorkshire, 1.3 km north-west of Cawthorne Village. Cawthorne lies north of the A635 between Barnsley (6.3 km) and Penistone (5.5 km).

The site encompasses Cannon Hall Museum (Grade II\* listed ref:1151805) and the Country Park (grade II listed ref: 1001159).

The area is essentially divided into two broad areas: with the hall, pleasure grounds and walled garden to the north; and the former deer park to the south.

The site is surrounded by Parkland to the South and Woodland to the West. The site is accessible by car and on foot from Bark House Lane.

The main site pedestrian access to the site is from car parks sited off Bark House Lane. There is a car park located immediately outside the museum that is used solely for staff and blue badge parking.



A further location plan has been submitted as an additional document. The Design Document shows the location where the art will be installed.

## **Planning Statement**

### **Relevant Legislation/Planning Policy:**

#### **Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990**

In terms of the impact on the special character and appearance of the listed building, Section 16 (2) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, states:

In considering whether to grant listed building consent for any works the local planning authority or the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses

#### **The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)**

NPPF para 189 and 190: The NPPF requires applicants to describe the significance (heritage) of any heritage asset affected by a proposal including any contribution made by the setting of the asset. The level of detail should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and the degree of intervention the proposal represents. The local Planning Authorities will take the heritage significance of an asset into account and consider any impacts on the asset to avoid conflict with the conservation of the asset.

NPPF para 193: Great weight given to an asset's conservation, irrespective of the degree of harm

NPPF para 194: Any harm to or loss of significance will require clear and convincing justification

### **Barnsley Local Plan Policies**

Barnsley Local Plan Policy HE1: The Historic Environment: Positively encourage developments that help in the management, conservation and understanding of the historic environment

Barnsley Local Plan Policy HE3: Developments affecting Historic Buildings: Proposals involving historic buildings should conserve and where appropriate enhance, respect historic precedents, and capitalise on opportunities to reveal significance

### **Designated Heritage Assets**

The Cannon Hall site is designated as a Grade II Listed Park and Gardens with many other Grade II and II\* listed assets. The parkland is extremely important. In the past, the parklands were very prestigious assets and would be proudly shown to visitors. As a result, any proposal within the parkland such as the GOBI sculptures, should be strategically placed so as not to interfere with the view from the hall and to preserve the historic vista.

### **Heritage Impact Assessment**

Materials – the sculptures will be made of pine and oak and will be painted using colours to reflect the current De Morgan Collection in Cannon Hall Museum.

Orientation – the sculptures will be located on the south side of Daking Brook within the woods to create an interactive trail.

Form – there are two types of sculptures proposed, the Gateway Sculptures will be located adjacent to the Boat House and have an appearance of various creatures and animals. There will be two of these, and seven of the Guardian Story Walk sculptures which have the appearance of birds and other creatures and will form an interactive trail.

Scale – the gateway sculptures will stand 4m above ground and the Guardian Story Walk sculptures 2m above ground.

### **Cannon Hall Garden and Parkland History**

Cannon Hall is situated c 6km west of Barnsley immediately north-west of the village of Cawthorne in an area which is rural and agricultural. The c 100ha site is on land which slopes downwards to the south and then gently upwards from the valley of the Daking Brook south of the Hall.

The gardens were laid out in the 1760s by Richard Woods, and parkland added in the late C18/early C19.

The parkland is on all sides of the Hall. To the south, on land which slopes gently downwards, there is open grassland with clumps of trees which include mature examples of oak, beech and chestnut in an area known as the Deer Park. This must have been enclosed by 1762 as John Spencer's diary entry for 6 February in that year describes fetching deer for the park from nearby Gunthwaite Park. On the west side of this area, c 280m south-west of the Hall, there is a deer shelter (listed grade II). This is shown on the 1850 OS map and is a late C19 rebuilding of a simple thatched structure with piers supporting the roof shown in a drawing of 1809 by Nattes. Within the Deer Park, c 450m south of the Hall, there is a series of lakes and cascades. Bark House Lane crosses the Daking Brook as it enters the park via Cascade Bridge (listed grade II) which has a stone balustrade. Immediately north of this water also flows beneath a second bridge and then descends as a cascade into a lake of serpentine form. The lake narrows and the water cascades into an elongated serpentine lake with an island. A third cascade leads to a continuation of the lake which is crossed by the bridge carrying the drive from Cawthorne. Some 200m to the east of this there is another cascade, from which point the water reverts to its natural course as the Daking Brook. Paths lead through mature trees on each side of the lakes. The lakes, bridges and cascades were constructed to Woods' designs during the period 1760-4, and Spencer's diary has many references to the work as it proceeded. The planting in this part of the park is managed so that there are views of the water from the Hall and of the Hall from the waterside framed by trees. This is illustrated in an engraving of 1821 (Neale 1821) showing a view from the lakeside which conforms closely with views obtainable today and with the general disposition of planting on Woods' plan. Spencer's diary makes it clear that the work involved removing and transplanting 'large trees', suggesting that there was some mature tree cover before the work began.

In the south-east corner of the site, south of the Daking Brook, there is a patch of woodland, including areas of late C20 planting, within which is a clearing and a cricket pitch. There is planting along the western perimeter of the parkland as suggested on the Woods plan and referred to in Spencer's diary. The parkland south of the lakes is in use as arable and pasture land with scattered mature trees. Woods showed this area with perimeter planting and clumps, which is shown in similar form on the 1850 OS map. On the north side of the Hall the park is in use as pasture land. There are a few scattered trees which appear to be less mature than those in the Deer Park. Woods shows the southern part of this area, which he described as the Little Park, with thinner bands of perimeter planting than parkland to the south, and fewer clumps. This planting has largely disappeared. There are views over the valley to the village of Cawthorne and the prominent tower of All Saints' church (listed grade II\*) from many points in this part of the park.

## **Conclusion**

The artwork and trail will increase the amount of activities at Cannon Hall which will increase footfall and dwell time. This helps to increase donations to Barnsley Museums and benefits surrounding concessions and businesses. It also encourages people to enjoy green spaces, culture and heritage which is good for wellbeing and improves physical activity levels.

Only natural, untreated materials are being used in both the artworks and installation methods so the project will not negatively impact the surrounding environment, habitats, wildlife or biodiversity.

The sculptures will blend well with the surrounding parkland due to the colourful but muted palette and the natural materials that they are constructed of. The sculptures represent wildlife and the parkland has a wide variety of birds and animals which call the grounds of Cannon Hall their home.

There is a close relationship between the parkland and the sculptures as the designs were influenced by the collections within the hall and will be painted in colours used in the DeMorgan gallery paintings. Evelyn De Morgan, connected with the hall and spent time there, was a Pre Raphaelite artist. Pre Raphaelite artists focused upon spiritualism, artistic freedom and connection to nature. Other areas of the parkland, such as Fairyland were also influenced by the Pre Raphaelite movement, making Guardians of Bird Island an excellent fit for this setting.

## Appendix A – Sculpture Designs

Example of one of the large sculptures: .



*Design 1 Gateway Sculpture*

Example of one of the smaller trail sculptures:



*Design 2 Guardians Story Walk Sculpture*

## **Appendix B – Listing Information**

### **Cannon Hall**

**List Entry Number:** 1001159

**Date first listed:** 01-Jun-1984

**Location;**

**Statutory Address:** CANNON HALL, BARK HOUSE LANE

**District:** Barnsley (Metropolitan Authority)

**Parish:** Cawthorne

**National Grid Reference:** SE2727508118

#### **Details;**

Gardens and a park laid out in the 1760s by Richard Woods, and parkland added in the late C18/early C19.

**HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT** The Cannon Hall estate was owned in the C13 by the Canum family and was sold in the late C14 to the Bosvilles of Ardsley. In the C17 the estate was acquired by the Spencer family of Cawthorne. John Spencer was responsible for extensive works on the house and grounds in the 1760s, which were executed to designs by Richard Woods (1716-93) who produced a map showing his proposals in 1760. Additions to the park of the late C18 or early C19 were carried out for Walter Spencer Stanhope, John Spencer's nephew and heir. A series of drawings showing views of Cannon Hall and other locations in the area was made in 1809 by John Nattes, who was a drawing master at Cannon Hall. The estate remained in the family until the sale of the Hall and part of the park to the County Borough of Barnsley in 1951. The Hall is a museum, and the gardens and part of the park immediately south of the Hall are in use as a public park (1998). The remainder of the parkland is privately owned and in use for pasture and arable cultivation.

**LOCATION, AREA, BOUNDARIES, LANDFORM, SETTING** Cannon Hall is situated c 6km west of Barnsley immediately north-west of the village of Cawthorne in an area which is rural and agricultural. The c 100ha site is on land which slopes downwards to the south and then gently upwards from the valley of the Daking Brook south of the Hall. The west boundary is formed by New Road, where there is a stone wall, the southern edge of Garden Plantation and a walled garden west of the Hall, the line of the principal drive south of this, and by Bark House Lane. The north boundary is a stone wall which runs from New Road along the outer edge of fields, a fishpond, and a patch of woodland called the Rookery. On the east side of the Rookery a track runs southwards to a point c 300m north-east of the Hall where the boundary continues southwards as a stone wall surmounted by cast-iron fencing set into a ditch. An earlier boundary in the form of a ditch with wall footings at its base runs as a continuation of this ditch northwards to the west side of the Rookery, and this is shown as the edge of an area called the Little Park on Woods' 1760 map. This map shows the old line of the road, which ran east of the line of New Road forming the west side of Little Park, but there is no obvious sign of this boundary above ground. The north boundary of Little Park has also been lost within the area imparked when the road was realigned and North Lodge constructed, late C18 or early C19. The boundary along the south and south-east sides is formed by walls

and fencing. John Spencer records a contract for building a park wall with copings in 1761 and some stretches of walling may represent the work which was done at that time.

**ENTRANCES AND APPROACHES** The principal entrance is at the junction of New Road and Bark House Lane where there is a late C19 lodge. A drive runs northwards from this on the line of the former public road. The drive turns to the east and runs along the north side of the pleasure grounds to Home Farm on the north side of the Hall. Running parallel to this from a late C20 car park south of the lodge, is a pathway which is shown as a drive on the Richard Woods map of 1760. This turns eastwards to approach the Hall as an avenue of lime trees. There is a drive leading from Cawthorne, as shown on Woods' map, which crosses a lake via a bridge (c 1762, listed grade II) and continues northwards to a gateway and then on to Home Farm via a route lined on the east side by lime trees, as shown on the 1850 OS map. Woods suggested a more circuitous approach, with the drive leading north-east before swinging around to the north-west. There is another entrance on the north-west side of the site where there is a pair of lodges (listed grade II) called North Lodge, shown in a drawing by Nattes of 1809 but not marked on the Woods map. The 1850 OS map shows a drive leading south-east to the Hall, and this survives for part of its length as a track. Other entrances to the site are informal.

**GARDENS AND PLEASURE GROUNDS** There are pleasure grounds on all sides of the Hall apart from the Home Farm and kitchen garden areas to the north and north-east. A terrace on the south front overlooks sloping lawns and a ha-ha, which divides the south and part of the east sides of the pleasure grounds from the park. The terrace has views over parkland and lakes to the south. The west side of the terrace connects with the drive from the south-west and the lime avenue, while on the east side paths lead eastwards to a formal garden between the walls of the kitchen garden and the ha-ha. This garden is overlooked by a garden building (listed grade II) c 80m east of the Hall, called the Camellia House or the Orangery, which is shown on Woods' map, and could be the 'pinery' Spencer refers to in his diary. It is set on a plinth against the outer wall of the kitchen garden overlooking lawns with geometric beds and a clipped yew hedge to the south, with views over parkland and lakes beyond the ha-ha. Some 20m west of the Camellia House there are two small garden buildings also set against the outer wall of the kitchen garden. They have arched openings which are glazed.

A path leads east from the south-east corner of the formal garden to a pool, c 200m south-east of the Hall, which is overlooked on its south side by the remains of a C16 tracery window (listed grade II) and on the west side by a C16 archway (listed grade II); both were brought to the site in the late C19. Paths lead around the pool and on eastwards through an area planted with shrubs and scattered mature trees to a point c 250m east of the Hall where there are more fragments of windows in Perpendicular style (listed grade II) forming an entrance to the pleasure grounds from the park where there is a bridge over the ha-ha. The remaining pleasure grounds, including an area on the west side of the Hall, consist of paths leading through informally planted trees, including mature examples of beech, oak, pine and sweet chestnut with an understorey of shrubs including rhododendrons. The pleasure grounds were laid out by Richard Woods and are shown on the 1760 map with a pattern of planting which conforms broadly to what exists today. John Spencer's diary makes various references to the gardens including an entry in October 1761 recording the completion of the ha-ha.

**PARK** There is parkland on all sides of the Hall. To the south, on land which slopes gently downwards, there is open grassland with clumps of trees which include mature examples of oak, beech and chestnut in an area known as the Deer Park. This must have been enclosed by 1762 as John Spencer's diary entry for 6 February in that year describes fetching deer for the park from nearby Gunthwaite Park. On the west side of this area, c 280m south-west of

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**Listing NGR:** SE2721708332

**Legal** - This garden or other land is registered under the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953 within the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens by Historic England for its special historic interest. The Park and Gardens at Cannon Hall are also grade II listed.